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Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Letter dated 29 March 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement by the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation concerning the violation by the Ukrainian authorities of the electoral rights of Russian Federation citizens (see annex).*

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 72 (b).

(Signed) V. Nebenzia

* The annex is being circulated in English and Russian only.



Annex to the letter dated 29 March 2018 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation concerning the violation by the Ukrainian authorities of the electoral rights of Russian Federation citizens

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation is deeply dismayed by the actions of the Ukrainian authorities in failing to ensure access for Russian Federation citizens to the polls open at the diplomatic mission and consular offices of the Russian Federation in Ukraine for the Russian presidential election.

Such actions are a flagrant violation by the Ukrainian authorities of their obligations under the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, the 1963 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations and the 1993 Consular Convention between the Russian Federation and Ukraine. They also violate the electoral rights of Russian Federation citizens and universally recognized principles and norms of international law, including those enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and in the 1950 Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation notes with regret the degradation of the political system in Ukraine since the 2014 coup d'état, as reflected in the increasingly odious decisions and statements of the authorities.

In the past the Ukrainian authorities, to all intents and purposes, encouraged radical nationalist groups that had committed thuggish acts against opposition politicians and Russian-speaking citizens of Ukraine, as well as acts of vandalism against Russian Orthodox churches and buildings housing official missions of the Russian Federation and other Russian organizations and companies. In preventing the diplomatic mission and consular offices of the Russian Federation from discharging their responsibilities to ensure access for Russian Federation citizens to the polls open on their premises on 18 March 2018, it is the Ukrainian authorities themselves that have now initiated and carried out illegal acts against the citizens and official missions of another sovereign State.

To serve their grotesque political ambitions, the Ukrainian authorities are seeking to cast doubt on the legitimacy of the Russian presidential election in constituent entities of the Russian Federation — the Republic of Crimea and the federal city of Sevastopol. Kiev has been issuing threats against the residents of Crimea and Sevastopol, and the citizens of other countries who have visited these entities of the Russian Federation. The authorities of those countries are also being instructed how to respond to such visits.

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation is convinced that such an infringement by the anti-democratic Kiev regime on the electoral rights of Russian Federation citizens must not be overlooked and warrants appraisal by the international community. The Council expects that international observation missions, in assessing the Russian presidential elections held on 18 March 2018, will take into account and note the fact that the Ukrainian authorities

essentially sabotaged the holding of elections at the diplomatic mission and consular offices of the Russian Federation in Ukraine.

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation calls on the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the parliaments of OSCE member States, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe and the European Parliament to condemn the actions of the Ukrainian authorities, which violate the electoral rights of Russian Federation citizens and universally recognized principles and norms of international law.
